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U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Office of the
Secretary.

Proposals for furnishing seed to the
U.S. Department of agriculture for the
fiscal year 1896.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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AGRICULTURE

Proposals for furnishing Seed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year 1896.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., March 18, 1896.

You are hereby respectfully invited to propose to furnish at a reasonable price to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, on or before the 15th day of April, 1896, delivered in Washington, D. C., to the warehouse designated by the Chief of the Seed Division, all or any part of the seeds hereinbelow mentioned. These seeds must be put up in strong, well-made, trade packets. Each packet must have printed upon its upper surface the name of the variety of seed and direction for properly planting the same; also the following: "Governmental and Congressional Seed Distribution." The packets must be also tied up into packages of fifteen packets each. Each package of fifteen packets will be of such varieties as the Chief of the Seed Division may direct. These seeds must be true to name. They must be also up to the standards of purity and germination herein stated. They must be free from smut, bunt, ergot, eggs and larvæ of insects, and the seeds of dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.), wild mustard (*Brassica* spp.), wild flax (*Camelina sativa*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali tragus*), Canada thistle (*Carduus arvensis*), cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), chess (*Bromus secalinus*), quack grass (*Agropyron repens*), pennycress (*Thlaspi arvense*), and the bulblets of wild onion (*Allium vineale*).

All the varieties of seeds to be purchased will be, according to the established methods of seed testing, subject to test by Mr. Gilbert H. Hicks, seed expert, or some other employe of the Division of Botany of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The right to reject any lot or lots of seeds which may be found to fall below the standards herein given is reserved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

This opportunity to sell seed is open to all the known reputable growers of and dealers in seed, and each person or firm seeking this sale must give a guaranty for the faithful performance of the contract, or deposit a certified check for 10 per cent of the amount bid before an order will be given for seeds. It is important, owing to the lateness of the season, that deliveries be made at the earliest possible date. Therefore, each proposition to furnish seed must state the earliest date at which the delivery of all seed named in the proposition can be made. The entire purchase will weigh about three hundred tons, and it is important that the seeds be delivered so as to be mailed in time for spring planting so far as is practicable. Each of the 90 Senators, each of the 357 Members of the House of Representatives, and each of the three Territorial Delegates will have a quota of 15,000 packets of seeds. Therefore each of the above named will have a total of one-four hundred and fiftieth (1-450) part of two-thirds of each variety. Consequently, those parties whose bids are accepted are required to put two-thirds of the seed furnished into 450 separate allotments, divided as above indicated, for delivery free of charge in Washington. These separate apportionments must be put up in strong grain sacks.

Kind.	No. of packets.	Measurements.	Price.
Asparagus.....	20,000	100 packets to pound.....	
Beans, garden.....	320,000	128 " " bushel.....	
Beets, garden.....	1,040,000	45 " " pound.....	
Brussels sprouts.....	240,000	127 " " ".....	
Cabbage.....	1,000,000	150 " " ".....	
Carrot.....	320,000	128 " " ".....	
Cauliflower.....	30,000	300 " " ".....	
Celery.....	48,000	192 " " ".....	
Corn, sweet.....	320,000	128 " " bushel.....	
Corn, salad.....	90,250	175 " " bushel.....	
Cress.....	8,750	100 " " ".....	
Collards.....	10,000	100 " " ".....	
Cucumber.....	1,000	100 " " ".....	
Egg plant.....	10,000	300 " " ".....	
Endive.....	1,300,000	130 " " ".....	
Garlic.....	17,000	87 " " ".....	
Kale.....	20,000	100 " " ".....	
Melon, musk or canteloupe.....	400,000	100 " " ".....	
Melob, water.....	400,000	100 " " ".....	
Onion.....	150,000	95 " " ".....	
Parsley.....	27,000	135 " " ".....	
Radish.....	1,200,000	60 " " ".....	
Salsify.....	15,000	100 " " ".....	
Parsnip.....	250,000	100 " " ".....	
Spinach.....	150,000	50 " " ".....	
Squash.....	210,000	70 " " ".....	
Tomato.....	160,000	230 " " ".....	
Pumpkin.....	300,000	100 " " ".....	
Rutabaga.....	92,000	46 " " ".....	
Turnip.....	208,000	52 " " ".....	
Rhubarb.....	10,000	100 " " ".....	
Peas, garden.....	320,000	128 " " bushel.....	
Okra.....	2,750	55 " " pound.....	
Mustard.....	10,000	100 " " ".....	
Broccoli.....	4,000	100 " " ".....	

In submitting bids for the above, it is required that at least four varieties of each kind, when practicable, be quoted and described.

Also 1,000,000 packets of flower seed—not less than seventy-five rare and choice varieties, averaging 300 packets to the pound.

A full description of growth and cultural directions to accompany each item. The measurements to be exclusive of weight of packet.

The following numbers refer to the per cent of purity and germination required of all seeds purchased by this Department:

Variety.	Purity.	Germination.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Asparagus.....	100	90
Beans.....	99.5	95
Beet.....	99	150
Broccoli.....	98	85
Brussels sprouts.....	99	95
Cabbage.....	99	95
Carrot.....	95	85
Cauliflower.....	99	85
Celery.....	99	95
Collard.....	99	15
Corn.....	99	92.5
Cress.....	99	100
Cucumber.....	99	92
Egg plant.....	99	85
Leek.....	99	85
Lettuce.....	99	100
Melon.....	99	92
Mustard.....	99	15
Okra.....	99	85
Onion.....	99	85
Parsley.....	99	75
Parsnip.....	99	98
Pease.....	99	92
Pumpkin.....	99	95
Radish.....	99	95
Rhubarb.....	97	85
Salsify.....	98	83
Spinach.....	98	80
Squash.....	99	92
Tomato.....	98	90
Turnip.....	99	95

The Joint Resolution of Congress under which this gratuitous distribution of seed is to be made, became a law (without Executive approval) at so late a date in March that it is impossible to undertake the dissemination of any other seeds than those enumerated, all of which, in view of their general character, may yet be planted this season and mature, it is hoped, in all latitudes and soils of the United States and Territories.



